(2) Nagaswaram — Thiruvilwa Jayshankar.

News-regarding death of Shri K. C. Sebastian former Member of Parliament

1694. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Pathanjali, Chief News Editor, Doordarshan had objected to the inclusion of a news item regarding the death of Mr. K. C. Sebastian, former Kerala Journalist and a former Rajya Sabha Member in the T.V. news bulletin of July 20, 1986, despite the fact that both PTI and UNI as well as the All India Radio had flashed the news in details in the national network; and

(b) if so, what are the views of Government in this regard and what action Government are going to take against the officer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Loss of life and property due to earthquake in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh

1695. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the loss of life and property caused by the recent earth-quake in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the affected population has been provided necessary relief by the Central Government and properly rehabilitated;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that the assistance is not properly distributed and even persons who have not suffered any loss are also getting it through false declarations and political intereference; and

(e) the manner in which the Central Government would ensure that the needy and affected persons are given adequate relief?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) According to the memorandum submitted by the State Government, the loss of life and property caused by the recent earthquake in Kangra District is as under:—

(i) Human lives lost—3.

(ii) Damage to public property 670.71 lakhs.

(b) and (c) As soon as the report of earthquake was received a Reconnaissance Team was deputed to visit the affected areas. Based on the recommendations of the Reconnaissance Team, an amount of Rs. 5.00 crores was released on 15-5-1986 as Ways and Means advance to the State Government for immediate relief works. Subsequently, a Central Team visited the State from 4th to 8th July, 1986 to assess the requirement of Central assistance. The report of the Central Team is under consideration.

(d) and (e) The administration of relief to the agected persons is the responsibility of the State Government. No reports of misuse of Central assistance have been received by Central Government.

Sale of R. S. P. slabs produced at Bokaro and Rourkela Steel Plants

1696. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cost of production of R.S.P. slabs produced by Bokaro and Rourkela steel plants;

(b) what is the price atat which these have been proposed to be sold in the month of April, 1986 at Ghaziabad;